



# MAKE EVERY VOTE COUNT-**ALWAYS!**

**PPR 123 = 'Perfect Proportional Representation' + 'Instant Runoff Voting' = 'Voter Equality' + 'True' Democracy !**

## VOTE REASSIGNMENT & PARLIAMENTARY VOTING PROCEDURES UNDER PPR 123

**PPR 123**, by fulfilling its promise to "**Make Every Vote Count—Always!**", presents exciting new possibilities for consideration. This should be the subject of future academic analysis and broad discussion. Here's a preliminary list of some of the issues and possibilities.

### 1. Absentee voting.

- With digital technology, it should be possible for MPs to vote securely from any location.
- It's suggested this should be subject to approval by the party whip.

### 2. Vote verification and vote security.

- Voting procedures, records and responsibilities would be carefully established and continually monitored by technical experts.
- Voting would be initiated by the Speaker, through the party whips, sending an 'invitation to cast a vote on a particular issue' (i.e. a 'voting transaction' or online ballot) to the registered voting devices (cell phone or tablet computer) of each MP.
- Each MP would respond by casting a vote, to be sent to the vote servers (i.e. networked computers) controlled by the Speaker and each party whip.
- The Speaker's vote server would issue a vote confirmation message to each MP.
- Every MP and party whip would be responsible to report any inconsistencies or problems to the Speaker.
- The overall security of the voting process and voting records would be ensured through security procedures and controls, authorization, verification, replication of data, and transparency.
- Potentially each MP's digital device could be enabled to record all votes by all MPs.
- Potentially the media might also be authorized to immediately receive voting summaries.

### 3. The role of party whip.

- See above.
- The responsibilities of each party whip would include: (1) to oversee all voting procedures and voting records on behalf of the party; (2) to ensure that all votes for the party were assigned to a voting member, with any reassignment as necessary; (3) to ensure that every Citizens' vote was always cast and counted with every vote in Parliament.

### 4. Abstentions or votes of conscience.

- With proxy voting, it would be possible for an MP to abstain from voting, without impacting the total votes of that party. The party whip would be so advised, and temporarily reassign those Citizens' votes.

### 5. Vote pairing and tie votes.

- With **PPR 123** based on proxy voting of the Citizens' votes, there's hardly any possibility of a tie vote. However, in that unlikely event, the Speaker's vote would decide the issue.
- There would be no need for 'vote pairing', given that proxy voting would ensure Citizens' votes would always be assigned—even when MPs were absent [also given that tie votes would be almost impossible, and given that MPs from different parties would likely hold different numbers of Citizens' votes].

### 6. Vote reassignment of 'unrepresented' votes.

- This is the defining feature of **PPR 123**, whereby all of the Citizens' votes for 'losing' candidates would be reassigned by each party amongst their elected MPs. In the 2015 election, there were almost 9 million votes (51.3%) for 'losing' candidates that would be reassigned under **PPR 123**.
- Vote reassignment opens new possibilities to improve the demographic balance of Parliamentary voting power (e.g. gender balance)—limited only by the number or percentage of votes available for reassignment.

## **7. Vote reassignment of ‘represented’ votes?**

- In principle, there would be no problem with the reassignment of some of the votes won by elected MPs, in order to achieve a more equitable distribution.
- As an example, in the 2015 election, only 33% of Liberal votes were ‘unrepresented’ (i.e. for ‘losing’ candidates). Reassignment of these votes would probably be insufficient to fully achieve gender balance of Parliamentary voting power; however, that could be accomplished by also reassigning some of the votes for their elected MPs.

## **8. Vote reassignment goals: gender parity; demographic balancing.**

- **PPR123** presents many new possibilities that would be worthy of careful consideration.

## **9. What are ‘weighted votes’?**

- One of the issues raised about **PPR123** is that MPs would not all have the same proxy voting power in Parliament. This has been referred to as ‘weighted votes’, with some concern that unequal voting power of MPs might somehow be unfair to them and/or their voters/constituents. Since **PPR123** is designed to “*Make Every Vote Count—Always!*”, and hence ensures absolute equitability to all, it’s actually not possible for it to be unfair to any Citizen, party or MP.
- Under **PPR123**, each party would have precisely the Parliamentary voting power based on and derived from all of the Citizens’ 1<sup>st</sup>-choice votes entrusted in them. Each MP would have precisely the proxy voting power assigned to them by their party. Hence, it’s true that MPs (at least those from different parties) would have different voting power in Parliament.
- The obvious question—a question of principle—is *‘Who’s vote should be equal?’* Should it be the Citizens or their elected MPs who are granted the fundamental democratic right of equal votes?
- Under our First-Past-the-Post voting system, the ‘*Will of the People*’ is distorted in both how the Citizens’ votes are cast and how they are counted. Then the abuse of misrepresentation is extended into Parliament, through the equal voting power granted to each MP, which itself is another distortion. [Mathematically, that final distortion (if one can suspend thinking of it as anything other than throwing away *all* Citizens’ votes) might itself be considered as a ‘weighted vote’, in that a different ratio (i.e. ‘weighting’) would be needed in each riding to convert the thousands of Citizens’ votes (i.e. the true source of democratic power) into their MP’s single vote.]
- The fact that MPs would no longer have equal votes is the necessary result based on two fundamental facts. Firstly, the democratic right of vote equality must rightly be taken back from the People’s elected representatives and restored to the Citizens. Secondly, the ‘*Will of the People*’ cannot be perfectly reflected in the composite results of individual elections, under any electoral system. Inevitably, some parties will be under-represented (i.e. the ‘losers’) and some will be over-represented (i.e. the ‘winners’). The inequality of MP votes under **PPR123** is a direct consequence and perfect correction of those unavoidable distortions in representation.
- The mathematics would all be done automatically by computer. MPs would simply cast their vote, the computers would know the number of proxy votes assigned to each MP, and the end result would be that every Citizen’s vote would be counted (and count equally) with every vote in Parliament. Which is completely fair to all Citizens and all parties.

## **10. Converting ‘Citizen votes’ into equivalent numbers of ‘MP seats’.**

- For constitutional reasons, it may be necessary to express Parliamentary voting—under **PPR123** based on Citizens’ votes—as an equivalent number of ‘MP seats’. In the 2015 election, the conversion factor would be simply calculated as the total number of seats (338) divided by the total number of votes cast (approx. 17.5 million).
- Digital technology has no problem calculating fractional numbers instantaneously with perfect precision.
- The record of voting decisions can be expressed as both the total number of Citizens’ votes (i.e. proxy votes cast by MPs) and equivalent numbers of seats.

When citizens make the effort to vote, they do so with the hope that their vote will count, that their voice will be heard and make a difference in how their country is run. Failures of the existing democratic process have contributed to widespread and increasing public distrust and alienation. By providing a much more honest electoral system, giving more power to voters and producing Parliaments that are a true reflection of the ‘*Will of the People*’, **PPR123** now offers new possibilities to build a stronger and more positive relationship between Citizens and their elected representatives.